(4) Pass an examination demonstrating ability as an able seaman and lifeboatman; and,

(5) Speak and understand the English language as would be required in performing the general duties of able seaman and during an emergency aboard ship.

(b) An STCW endorsement valid for any period on or after February 1, 2002, will be issued or renewed only when the candidate for certification as an able seaman also produces satisfactory evidence, on the basis of assessment of a practical demonstration of skills and abilities, of having achieved or maintained within the previous 5 years the minimum standards of competence for the following 4 areas of basic safety:

(1) Personal survival techniques as set out in table A–VI/1-1 of the STCW Code (incorporated by reference in §12.01–3).

(2) Fire prevention and fire-fighting as set out in table A–VI/1-2 of the STCW Code.

(3) Elementary first aid as set out in table A–VI/1-3 of the STCW Code.

(4) Personal safety and social responsibilities as set out in table A–VI/1-4 of the STCW Code.

(c) An STCW endorsement valid for any period on or after February 1, 2002, will be issued or renewed only when the candidate for certification as able seamen meets the requirements of STCW Regulation II/4 and of Section A-II/4 of the STCW Code, if the candidate will be serving as a rating forming part of the navigational watch on a seagoing ship of 500 GT or more.

[CGD 80–131, 45 FR 69240, Oct. 20, 1980, as amended by CGD 95–062, 62 FR 34537, June 26, 1997; CGD 95–062, 62 FR 40140, July 25, 1997; USCG-1999–5610, 67 FR 66068, Oct. 30, 2002]

§ 12.05–5 Physical requirements.

(a) All applicants for a certificate of service as able seaman shall be required to pass a physical examination given by a medical officer of the United States Public Health Service and present to the Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection, a certificate executed by the Public Health Service Officer. Such certificate shall attest to the applicant's acuity of vision, color sense, hearing, and general physical condition. In exceptional cases where an applicant would be put to great inconvenience or expense to appear before a medical officer of the United States Public Health Service, the physical examination and certification may be made by any other reputable physician.

(b) The medical examination for an able seaman is the same as for an original license as a deck officer as set forth in §10.205 of this subchapter. If the applicant is in possession of an unexpired deck license, the Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection, may waive the requirement for a physical examination.

[CGFR 65–50, 30 FR 16640, Dec. 30, 1965, as amended by USCG-1998–4442, 63 FR 52189, Sept. 30, 1998]

§ 12.05–7 Service or training requirements.

(a) The minimum service required to qualify an applicant for the various categories of able seaman is as listed in this paragraph.

(1) Able Seaman—Any Waters, Unlimited. Three years service on deck on vessels operating on the oceans or the Great Lakes.

(2) Able Seaman—Limited. Eighteen months service on deck in vessels of 100 gross tons or over which operate in a service not exclusively confined to the rivers and smaller inland lakes of the United States.

(3) Able Seaman—Special. Twelve months service on deck on vessels operating on the oceans, or the navigable waters of the United States including the Great Lakes.

(4) Able Seaman—Special (OSV). Six months service on deck on vessels operating on the oceans, or the navigable waters of the United States including the Great Lakes.

(5) After July 31, 1998, to receive an STCW endorsement for service as a "rating forming part of a navigational watch" on a seagoing ship of 500 GT or more, the applicant's seagoing service must include training and experience associated with navigational watchkeeping and involve the performance of duties carried out under the direct supervision of the master, the officer in charge of the navigational watch, or a qualified rating forming part of a navigational watch. The training and experience must be sufficient to establish that the candidate